



August 31, 2009

Dear Colleague,

I would like to invite you to nominate your most outstanding, effective and skilled educators to receive the honor of being the **2010 District of Columbia Teacher of the Year**. The District of Columbia Teacher of the Year award provides an excellent opportunity to recognize a classroom teacher who has demonstrated outstanding teaching and leadership. The 2010 award recipient will have the privilege of representing the District of Columbia in the National Teacher of the Year (NTOY) competition and program. As a NTOY finalist, the D.C. candidate will be able to participate in professional development opportunities with other state finalists, and will be honored locally through a variety of venues. If selected as the National Teacher of the Year, the teacher is released from classroom duties for one year to serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the entire teaching profession. It is our hope at the OSSE that we will receive at least one applicant per local education agency who reflects the ideals of outstanding teaching and meets the criteria below.

Criteria for Selection

The candidate should:

- Be an exceptionally dedicated, knowledgeable and skilled teacher in pre-kindergarten through grade twelve who is planning to continue in an active teaching status.
- Have a valid teaching license in the area of assignment (not required for charter LEA teachers).
- Inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.
- Have the respect and admiration of students, parents and colleagues.
- Play an active and useful role in the community as well as in the school.
- Be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to inspire teachers by serving in the capacity of ambassador for the teachers of the District of Columbia.

Please see the enclosed requirements for the submission of a complete application packet. All applications and supporting documentation must be received by OSSE by **Wednesday, September 30, 2009** at the location below. Submissions may be faxed or emailed by the deadline with a hardcopy to follow no later than October 2, 2009.

Office of the State Superintendent of Education
Division of Education Excellence
Office of Educator Licensure and Quality
51 N Street NE, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20002
Attn: Erika Lomax
Fax: 202.724.7656
erika.lomax@dc.gov

A selection committee will be convened to review applications and select finalists to interview. Interviews will take place between October 19-23, 2009, and the D.C. Teacher of the Year will be announced in December 2009. Thank you for taking the opportunity to nominate an outstanding teacher for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Kerri Briggs, Ph.D.
State Superintendent of Education

Enclosure: D.C. Teacher of the Year Application